



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Great Plains Regional Office
115 Fourth Avenue S.E., Suite 400
Aberdeen, South Dakota 57401



IN REPLY REFER TO:

DESCRM
MC-208

JAN 10 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendent, Fort Berthold Agency

FROM: ^{ACTING} Regional Director, Great Plains Region

SUBJECT: Environmental Assessment Addendum and Finding of No Significant Impact

In compliance with the regulations of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, an Addendum has been completed and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) has been issued. The addendum authorizes land use for the Blue Buttes lateral pipeline connecting to the Saddle Butte Pipeline, an access road spur, and four compressor stations on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation.

All the necessary requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act have been completed. Attached for your files is a copy of the EA Addendum, FONSI and Notice of Availability. The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations require that there be a public notice of availability of the (40 C.F.R. Section 1506.6(b)) Please post the attached notice of availability at the Agency and Tribal buildings for 30 days.

If you have any questions, please call Marilyn Bercier, Regional Environmental Scientist, Division of Environment, Safety and Cultural Resources Management, at (605) 226-7656.

Attachment

cc: Tex Hall, Chairman, Three Affiliated Tribes (with attachment)
Elgin Crows Breast, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (with attachment)
Derek Enderud, BLM, Bureau of Land Management (with attachment)
Joey Sheeley, SWCA (with attachment)
Jonathon Shelman, Corps of Engineers
Jeff Hunt, Fort Berthold Agency

Finding of No Significant Impact

Enerplus Resources

***Addendum to Environmental Assessment to Authorize Land Use for
the Blue Buttes Lateral Pipeline Connecting to the Saddle Butte Pipeline***

***Fort Berthold Indian Reservation
McKenzie County, North Dakota***

The U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has received a proposal for an Addendum to Authorize Land Use for the Blue Buttes Lateral Pipeline Connecting to the Saddle Butte Pipeline, an access road spur, and four compressor stations on the Fort Berthold Reservation. Associated federal actions by BIA include determinations of impacts and effects regarding environmental resources for developments on tribal lands.

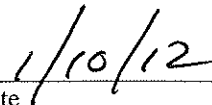
The potential of the proposed actions to impact the human environment is analyzed in the attached addendum to an existing EA, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act. Based on the recently completed addendum to the EA, I have determined that the proposed project will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. No Environmental Impact Statement is required for any portion of the proposed activities.

This determination is based on the following factors:

1. Agency and public involvement solicited for the preceding NEPA document was sufficient to ascertain potential environmental concerns associated with the currently proposed project.
2. Protective and prudent measures were designed to minimize impacts to air, water, soil, vegetation, wetlands, wildlife, public safety, water resources, and cultural resources. The remaining potential for impacts was disclosed for both the proposed actions and the No Action alternative.
3. Guidance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been fully considered regarding wildlife impacts, particularly in regard to threatened or endangered species. This guidance includes the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703 et seq.), the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668-668d, 54 Stat. 250), Executive Order 13186 "Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds", and the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).
4. The proposed actions are designed to avoid adverse effects to historic, archaeological, cultural and traditional properties, sites and practices. Compliance with the procedures of the National Historic Preservation Act is complete.
5. Environmental justice was fully considered.
6. Cumulative effects to the environment are either mitigated or minimal.
7. No regulatory requirements have been waived or require compensatory mitigation measures.
8. The proposed projects will improve the socio-economic condition of the affected Indian community.


Regional Director

ACTING


Date

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT Addendum

United States Bureau of Indian Affairs

**Great Plains Regional Office
Aberdeen, South Dakota**



Enerplus Resources (USA)

**Addendum to Environmental Assessment to Authorize Land Use for
the Blue Buttes Lateral Pipeline Connecting to the Saddle Butte Pipeline**

Fort Berthold Indian Reservation

January 2012

For information contact:
Bureau of Indian Affairs, Great Plains Regional Office
Division of Environment, Safety and Cultural Resources Management
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A Pipeline Layout and Pipeline Right-of-Way for the Blue Buttes Lateral Gathering Pipeline System

1. Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action

The purpose of the proposed action is to authorize the land use by Enerplus Resources (USA) (Enerplus) for the construction and installation of a gathering pipeline system (oil, gas, and water), an access road spur, and four compressor stations. The proposed gathering pipelines would transport oil, gas, and produced water from producing wells to markets or disposal facilities. None of the pipelines would exceed a diameter of 12 inches.

2. Authorities

Oil and gas exploration and development activities are conducted under authority of the Indian Mineral Leasing Act of 1938 (25 United States Code [USC] 396a, et seq.), the Indian Mineral Development Act of 1982 (25 USC 2101, et seq.), and the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 USC 15801, et seq.).

3. Legal Land Description for Proposed Action

The Blue Buttes Lateral gathering pipeline system would be located on both fee and trust land originating from the existing access road and utility corridor to the Enerplus Danks 17-44H/Danks 20-41H well pad, approximately 0.25 mile east of State Highway 22, in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 20, Township (T) 151 North (N), Range (R) 94 West (W), 5th Prime Meridian (P.M.), McKenzie County, North Dakota. The proposed gathering pipeline system would travel south, tying in to 23 wells, and terminating at the approved utility corridor for the Hall 5-11H five-well pad in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 5, T150N, R94W, 5th P.M., McKenzie County, North Dakota (Figures 1 and 2).

4. Scope of Work for Proposed Action

Enerplus proposes to construct and install oil, gas, and water gathering pipelines across fee and trust lands that would join the Danks 17-44H/Danks 20-41H, Earth 151-94-16CH/Sky 151-94-16CH TF/Carbon 151-94-21B-28H/Air 151-94-21B-28H TF, Fire 151-94-16DH/Water 151-94-16DH TF, Sherwood 28-44H/Miles 151-94-28D-21-2H TF, Coyote 151-94-33DH TF/Fox 151-94-33DH/Bobcat 150-94-04A-09H/Prairie Dog 150-94-04A-09H TF, Badger 150-94-04B-09H/Raccoon 151-94-33CH TF/Mink 151-94-33CH/Muskrat 150-94-04B-09H TF, and the Hall 5-11H/Artsy 150-94-05BH/Berkeley 150-94-05BH/Bloomsbury 150-94-05BH/Speedy 150-94-05BH TF well pads to the existing Saddle Butte Pipeline.

Approximately 5.9 miles (31,143 feet) of oil, gas, and water line would be needed to connect the wells to the existing Saddle Butte Pipeline. The temporary right-of-way (ROW) construction width is 100 to 125 feet, depending on topography and grade (Table 1). Enerplus also plans to construct four compressor stations, on tribal lands and an access road to allow equipment to access a pipeline bore area. At the direction of the Three Affiliated Tribes, the road would not be removed upon completion of construction. BIA representative Chris McLaughlin agreed, indicating that the road would provide safe access to the pipeline ROW from Highway 22, if necessary. It would be reclaimed back to approximately 40 feet and would be used by the lessee to access livestock grazing areas. As noted in Table 1, a portion of the access road is located on fee lands; the landowner has agreed to allow the road to

remain. Approximately 59.9 acres of tribal and/or allotted land would be disturbed as a result of activities associated with the construction of the proposed gathering pipeline and associated facilities (Table 2). Plats, drawings, and diagrams for the Blue Buttes Lateral Pipeline are provided in Appendix A.

Table 1. Description of Pipeline and Facility Surface Ownership and Disturbance Acreage.

Facility	Surface Ownership	Legal Location	ROW Width (feet)	ROW Length or Facility Dimensions (feet)	Acres of Disturbance
Pipeline					
L1-L12	Allotted	NENE Sec. 20, T151N, R94W	125	621	1.78
L13-L38	Tribal/Allotted	N2 Sec. 21, T151N, R94W	100	5,725 (1,038 feet to be bored)	10.80
L39-L60	Tribal/Allotted	SE Sec. 21 and SW Sec. 22, T151N, R94W	125	4,252	12.20
L61-L84	Tribal/Allotted	W2 Sec. 27 and SE Sec. 28, T151N, R94W	100	6,929 (158 feet to be bored)	15.50
L85-L103	Fee	E2 Sec. 33, T151N, R94W	100	6,344 (880 feet to be bored)	12.50
L104-L110	Allotted	N2 Sec. 4, T150N, R94W	100	3,554 (1,357 feet to be bored)	5.04
L111-L116	Fee	NE Sec. 5, T150N, R94W	100	2,744	6.30
L117-L119	Allotted	NENW Sec. 5, T150N, R94W	100	974	2.24
Access Road					
L120-L134	Allotted	NW Sec. 4, T150N, R94W	66	2,411	3.65
L135-L137	Fee	NE Sec. 5, T150N, R94W	66	1,263	1.91
L138-L141	Fee	NE Sec. 5, T150N, R94W	66	735	1.11
Compressor Stations					
1	Tribal/Allotted	NWNW Sec. 21, T151N, R94W	Not Applicable	200 × 200	0.92
2	Allotted	SESE Sec. 28, T151N, R94W	Not Applicable	200 × 200	0.92
3	Allotted	NENW Sec. 4, T150N, R94W	Not Applicable	200 × 200	0.92
4	Allotted	NENW Sec. 5, T150N, R94W	Not Applicable	200 × 200	0.92

Table 2. Summary of Fee vs. Tribal Surface Disturbance Acreage.

Facility and Surface Ownership	Short-Term Disturbance Acreage	Long-Term Disturbance Acreage
Pipeline		
Fee	18.8	None
Tribal/Allotted	47.6	None
Access Road		
Fee	3.02	1.84
Tribal/Allotted	3.65	2.21
Compressor Stations		
Fee	None	None
Tribal/Allotted	3.68	3.68

The oil, gas, and water pipelines would be co-located in either two 2.5-foot-wide trenches, spaced 5.0 feet apart, or one 5.0-foot-wide trench. Oil and gas pipelines would be no greater than 12 inches in diameter and would be constructed of steel. The water pipelines would also be no greater than 12 inches in diameter and would be constructed of Fiberspar® or similar material.

The route would be bored in seven places, due to topographical and wetland issues. The boring locations are summarized in Table 3 below.

Table 3. Description of Pipeline Bores.

Surface Ownership	Legal Location	Length (feet)
Tribal/Allotted	NENW and NWNE Sec. 21, T151N, R94W	1,038
Allotted	SWSE Sec. 28, T151N, R94W	158
Fee	NWNE Sec. 33, T151N, R94W	600
Fee	SWSE Sec. 33, T151N, R94W	280
Allotted	NWNE Sec. 4, T150N, R94W	197
Allotted	NENW Sec. 4, T150N, R94W	325
Allotted	NWNW Sec. 4, T150N, R94W	835

5. Surveys

SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) conducted natural resource surveys for threatened and endangered species, migratory birds, bald and golden eagles, and wetlands for the gathering pipelines on September 1, 2011. BIA Environmental Specialist Chris McLaughlin approved the locations and the proposed alignment of the gathering pipelines. No threatened and endangered species, migratory birds or nests, or bald/golden eagles were observed during any of the natural resource surveys. No wetland areas are anticipated to be impacted by the construction of the proposed gathering pipelines.

A Class III cultural resource inventory for the gathering pipelines, including original centerline and reroutes, was conducted by SWCA personnel, using an intensive pedestrian methodology, on September 1, 12, and 27, and November 3, 2011. The original pipeline centerline includes 5.9 miles of 200-foot-wide corridor and one 500-foot-long area of a 400-foot-wide corridor amounting to 130.89 acres. Two reroutes consisting of an additional 0.77 mile (19.99 acres) were inventoried in order to avoid three cultural resources within the project area. Reroute 1 is 2,120 feet in length with a 200-foot-wide survey corridor amounting to 9.73 acres in Section 27, T151N, R94W. Reroute 2 is 2,235 feet in length with a 200-foot-wide survey corridor in Section 4, T150N, R94W, amounting to 10.26 acres. One 4,405-foot-long access road was surveyed with a 100-foot-wide corridor resulting in 10.11 acres. The compressor station block areas amounted to 22.94 acres. The inventoried area for the entire project, including the pipeline corridor, reroutes, compressor stations, and access road, totals 183.93 acres. The final pipeline centerline, incorporating reroutes, measures 6.7 miles in length. During the inventory, three previously recorded sites, one newly recorded site, and one isolated find were documented (Baer, Hutchinson, Nagra 2011¹). All four sites were left unevaluated regarding their eligibility for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The isolated find was recommended not eligible for nomination to the NRHP. One site is located approximately 88 feet west of the proposed pipeline construction right-of-way (ROW) and will not be impacted by construction. Three of the cultural resource sites were avoided by pipeline reroutes to ensure construction activities would not impact these resources. However, because two of the sites are located within 75 feet of the construction corridor, the BIA requires that they be fenced and that an archaeological monitor be present during construction to avoid impacts to the sites.

A cultural resource inventory of this pipeline route was conducted by personnel of SWCA Environmental Consultants, using an intensive pedestrian methodology. Approximately 183.93 acres were inventoried between September 1 and November 3, 2011 (Baer et al. 2011). Three archaeological sites were revisited and one new site was located that may possess the quality of integrity and meet at least one of the criteria (36 CFR 60.6) for inclusion on the National Register. As the lead federal agency, and as provided for in 36 CFR 800.5, on the basis of the information provided, BIA reached a determination of no historic properties affected for this undertaking, as the pipeline will be rerouted to avoid the archaeological sites. This determination was communicated to the THPO on December 7, 2011; however, the THPO did not respond within the allotted 30 day comment period.

Baer, Sara, Alan Hutchinson and Jenny Nagra

(2011) A Class I and Class III Cultural Resource Inventory of the Blue Buttes Lateral Pipeline, Fort Berthold Indian Reservation, McKenzie County, North Dakota. SWCA Environmental Consultants for Enerplus Resources, Denver.

6. Potential Effects

Potential direct impacts to cultural resource sites would occur as a result of disturbance and/or the loss of sites eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. All potential impacts as a

¹ Baer, S., A. Hutchinson, J. Nagra. 2011. A Class I and Class III Cultural Resource Inventory of the Blue Buttes Lateral Pipeline, Fort Berthold Indian Reservation, McKenzie County, North Dakota. Prepared by SWCA Environmental Consultants.

result of the proposed action were mitigated via field survey and subsequent avoidance, or by requiring fencing and monitoring during construction when in proximity to any eligible or listed cultural resource sites within the proposed ROW.

Potential direct impacts to natural resources may include the loss of native vegetation and wildlife habitat, soil disturbance, and erosion during construction that may adversely affect air and water quality. Impacts would be mitigated by using best management practices during construction to minimize disturbance. Once construction activities are completed, reclamation would take place and would include the return of topsoil and contouring, and seeding of native vegetation.

Potential indirect impacts include noise and other disturbances to wildlife during construction and the introduction of noxious weeds. Impacts would be mitigated through avoidance of any federally listed threatened or endangered species or wetlands, avoidance of nesting migratory birds, implementation of best management practices to control the introduction of noxious weeds, and minimization of the length of time between trenching, pipeline burial, and reclamation. These mitigation measures are consistent with the approved National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document, which received a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) (October 2010).

7. Pipeline/Gathering Line Construction and Safety Information

The utility corridor is sized to accommodate the installation of buried oil, gas, and water gathering pipelines and buried electric and fiber optic lines. Gathering pipelines would tie into main pipeline trunk lines.

Gathering pipelines consist of oil, gas, and water pipelines. Gathering lines are designed and sized to prevent erosion—which is an internal pipe condition caused by excessive abrasion of fine particles in the pipeline system or by excessive velocity of the transported product—by a safety factor of approximately two. Based on these criteria, the oil and gas pipelines would be steel and 12 inches or less in diameter and the water pipelines would be Fiberspar and 6 inches or less in diameter. The gathering lines would be coated with between 14 and 16 millimeters of fusion bonded epoxy, which helps protect the pipelines against corrosive elements in the soil. Field joints are also protected by shrink sleeves. Specialty coatings are also used, as applicable, for underground fittings and bore crossings, to provide additional levels of protection from leakage or corrosion. The coating and shrink sleeves are inspected thoroughly at the time of installation, both visually and electronically. All pipelines are clearly marked following the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT's) rules and regulations (Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations [CRF] Parts 192 and 195). To prevent potential erosion or rupturing of the pipeline within critical areas near Lake Sakakawea or in drainages, the placement and bore depth of gathering lines is designed based on soil types in the area and surface drainage area within the vicinity of the bore. Gathering lines will be bored underneath drainages at a minimum depth of 8 feet. Additionally, bore pipes will be coated with specialty abrasion-resistant coating that provides substantial protection on the off chance that a large erosion or flooding event occurs. Pipelines are also equipped with check valves and manual valves between the trunk line and gathering line, or lateral line, which provide connections to help limit the volume of potential spills. Saddle Butte Pipeline (SBP) has developed a Spill

Response Plan (Plan) for its pipeline construction and operation activities. The Plan includes spill preventative measures and monitoring protocols, notification procedures, spill detection and on-scene spill mitigation procedures, response activities, contacts, training and drill procedures, and response plan review and update procedures. SBP is committed to adhering to the Plan as well as the procedures and requirements set forth by federal law (49 CFR Part 194); the spill plan would be submitted to the BIA prior to the start of construction.

Following installation of the gathering lines, the lines will be cleaned and inspected via internal tools (e.g., cleaning pigs and smart pigs), which helps to identify issues in the pipes. Hydrostatic testing is conducted to ensure that there is no leakage of the pipe. A cathodic survey using test stations, rectifier pads, and other means designed by cathodic protection specialists is also conducted. Any stress or damage issues identified in the pipelines can be quickly identified and remedied prior to backfill. Throughout the life of the gathering lines, an appropriate amount of cathodic active current is placed on pipeline segments and monitored in accordance with the strict pipeline safety requirements set forth in the USDOT's rules and regulations. In order to assure the quality of the installation and the effectiveness of its corrosion control systems, pig launchers and receivers are also installed on the trunk lines and primary laterals to identify pipeline conditions both internally and externally, in order to maintain the integrity.

8. Pipeline/Gathering Line and Compressor Station Reclamation Information

Reclamation and Stabilization

The purpose of this section is to describe the methods for topsoil replacement, seeding, erosion control, and monitoring in order to ensure reclamation success. All disturbed areas would be reclaimed and seeded immediately following construction. The construction contractor, according to specifications outlined in this document, would restore all lands disturbed by that contractor including, but not limited to, ROWs, well pads, construction yards, temporary work spaces, ancillary facilities, and staging areas. Enerplus would recontour the disturbed areas and obliterate all earthwork by removing embankments, backfilling excavations, and grading to re-establish the approximate original contours of the land and in the ROW. Enerplus would also restore drainages, to the greatest extent possible, to the original bank configuration, stream bottom width, and channel gradient. Loose soil, fill, and culverts would be removed from drainage channels as directed by the authorized officer.

Enerplus would measure the success of the reclamation by monitoring site stabilization and percentage of revegetation. By maintaining vegetative cover, "the interactive process between the soil and the plant are sufficient to cope with erosive forces" (Lal 1998²) and recent research has suggested that soil with "30% total cover provided adequate erosion protection" (Linse et al. 2001³). Enerplus would measure the success of its short-term reclamation goals by establishing a minimum of 30% vegetation cover and ensuring that no gullies or rills

² Lal, Ratan. 1988. Soil Erosion Research Methods. American Society of Agronomy 1988:164–165.

³ Linse, S.J., D.E. Mergen, J.L. Smith, and M.J. Trlica. 2001. Upland erosion under a simulated most damaging storm. *Journal of Range Management* 54 (2001):356–361.

would occur. Final stabilization would be achieved when all surface-disturbing activities are completed and a uniform perennial native vegetative cover with a density of 70% has been established on all disturbed areas not covered by permanent structures. The success of reclamation goals would be monitored for the life of the pipeline.

Work sites would be restored using excess materials, vegetation, and topsoil stockpiled for that purpose. The contractor would dispose of excess soil materials, rock, and other objectionable materials that cannot be used in restoration work, at an approved landfill. All topsoil material stockpiled after construction of well pads, and following interim reclamation, would be immediately placed in windrows no higher than 2 to 4 feet, seeded with a certified weed-free annual ryegrass at a rate of 10 pounds per acre, and covered with fiber matting to prevent erosion and maintain soil fertility.

Interim Reclamation

Compressor Stations

No interim reclamation is planned for the compressor stations. The sites are planned for long-term use and have been designed accordingly.

Pipeline/Gathering Line Corridor

Reclamation would continue to occur over the life of the pipelines. Interim reclamation would commence after initial construction and following any maintenance work or additions to infrastructure. SBP would be responsible for successfully reclaiming and restoring any damage or disturbance it may have caused to the property.

Following trench backfilling and compaction, disturbed areas would be restored to the original land contour and the subsoil on the working side of the ROW and other work areas would be ripped to alleviate compaction. The salvaged and stockpiled topsoil would then be redistributed over the ROW and graded and erosion control measures would be installed as appropriate. If construction is stopped before interim reclamation can be completed due to winter weather conditions, the topsoil will be respread over the ROW after the trench is backfilled and matting or straw will be placed over the all bare ground as a barrier to aid in the prevention of subsidence. If construction is planned for winter months, SBP will partially fill the trench with useable, non-frozen, backfill soil to the extent possible. SBP would then backfill the trench and distribute the topsoil as soon as practicable after the soil has defrosted. Topsoil piles would be covered to eliminate the potential for rill erosion and subsequent loss of soil during spring snow melt and precipitation events.

The seedbed would be prepared by disking to a depth of 4 to 6 inches below ground surface. No reclamation work would be completed when soils are frozen or overly wet and no depressions would be left to trap water or form ponds. The seed mixture would be determined by the BIA and the landowner. Seed would be drilled on the contour with a seed drill. If a drill seeder cannot be used due to topography, the location would be broadcast seeded at double the above rate. The broadcasted seed would be covered by raking or harrowing.

Topsoil would not be mixed with spoil material before or during replacement. Topsoil from areas that had not been stripped would not be used to cover adjacent disturbances. Topsoil would not be handled under excessively wet or windy conditions.

Replaced topsoil would be left in a roughened condition to discourage erosion and additional stabilization techniques may be required on steeper slopes, in areas that have highly erodible soils, and in areas adjacent to, or within, drainages. Woody and non-woody vegetation cleared and stored along the edges of the ROW during construction would be randomly scattered over the ROW and temporary use areas.

No unnatural depressions would be left that would trap water or form ponds; the trench would be compacted at 1- to 2-foot lifts to avoid subsidence. In no instance would the ROW or expanded work areas be lower than the natural grade.

Seed Specifications and Selection

Seed mixtures determined by the BIA may need to be modified as a result of limited species availability, poor seed quality, or differences in site conditions. These modifications would be dependent on site-specific conditions and requirements and modifications would only be approved after consultation with the landowner or the authorized officer.

All seed would meet all the requirements of the Federal Seed Act of 1939 and the seed and noxious weed laws of North Dakota. Seed would be purchased from a certified seed source in accordance with Pure Live Seed specifications for seed mixtures and would be certified weed-free. If requested, evidence of seed certification would be provided to the authorized officer. The seed would be consistent with the characteristics of the reclaimed area and would be used within nine (9) months of testing to assure seed viability.

Seedbed Preparation

Seedbed preparation pertains to the preparation of the surface to receive the seed. Prior to seedbed preparation, the contractor or Enerplus would remove all foreign materials (e.g., garbage, paper, etc.), but leave all rocks, limbs, or minor woody debris. Seedbed preparation would be performed immediately prior to seeding.

The topsoil layer would be roughened, if necessary, prior to seed application using a standard disk or spring bar harrow under the proper soil moisture conditions to achieve the desired surface texture. Dirt clods and chiseled voids would provide microsites for seed establishment and increase surface area for water collection. The soil would be disked/harrowed to a maximum of 2 inches deep with 2- to 4-inch clods. Sites where this method is not practical (steep slopes, rocky areas, etc.) would be left with adequate roughness following topsoil placement to provide microsites for seed germination and to reduce soil movement.

Seedbed preparations would not be performed in areas with the desired post-construction soil characteristics. The authorized officer may review and approve the results of the seedbed preparations prior to the seed application if desired.

Seed Application

The seed mixture would be applied as directed by the BIA and no seed mixture changes would be made without approval from the authorized officer.

Seeding would normally take place in the fall after September 15 and prior to prolonged ground frost, or in the spring after the frost leaves the ground, after May 15. Seeding would be repeated until a satisfactory stand, as determined by the BIA authorized officer, is achieved. The seed mixture would be broadcast on the disturbed area after seedbed preparations are complete. After broadcasting on lands held in trust by the BIA, the seed would be lightly harrowed or raked into the ground prior to the application of stabilizing material. Seeding would not take place when wind velocities reach speeds that make uniform application of the seed mixture unlikely.

If the seed does not germinate and establish at least one desirable perennial species per square foot after two growing seasons, the contractor or Enerplus would perform a one-time reseeding during a period acceptable to the BIA. Success criteria would be based on a qualitative assessment of reclaimed areas and adjacent undisturbed habitat. If there is a need for immediate soil stabilization, a chemical soil binder may be applied, either alone or with mulch. These chemical stabilizers would be applied per the manufacturer's recommended rate.

Reclamation Monitoring and Evaluation of Reclamation Success

A monitoring program would be implemented following construction and reclamation to determine the need for additional reclamation. Monitoring would continue for an unspecified length of time, determined through mutual agreement between Enerplus and the BIA.

Monitoring would be conducted by a specialist to ensure revegetation of native herbaceous and woody species. Any identified problem areas would be remediated as soon as possible. Effectiveness of erosion and sediment control measures would be assessed during construction, following revegetation. Corrective actions would be taken on any problem areas. Any identified unauthorized vehicle access would be noted during reclamation monitoring and additional measures to block access would be taken.

Enerplus would conduct reclamation evaluations in conjunction with the BIA. Evaluations would include assessment of soil stability and revegetation success and final revegetation success would be determined with the help of the following criteria.

- Post-disturbance plant cover is at least 70% of that on adjacent lands. In forested and shrubby areas where comparison to adjacent lands is impractical, success would be measured by evaluating the revegetation density and composition as a result of having met soil stabilization goals.
- Species composition includes a high percentage of seeded species and natural invasion of desirable volunteers from adjacent communities.
- Ability to withstand grazing pressure is similar to adjacent areas. In areas where revegetation may be sensitive to grazing pressure, Enerplus may negotiate with the BIA or the landowner to defer, reduce, or control grazing or to fence sensitive areas on the ROW for one to three growing seasons until plants are well established.
- Plant reproduction is evident.
- Where applicable, replanted woody species have at least a 50% survival rate.
- Vegetative cover is established and sufficient to, with the help of the noxious weed management plan, control invasion of noxious weeds.
- Vegetative cover is sufficient to mitigate visual impacts.

Soil stability determination would be made by watching for the following erosion indicators.

- Headcuts or bank failure in drainages.
- Existence of soil pedestals that are 0.50 inch high or more and/or at a frequency of 10 or more per 100 square feet.
- Existence of rills more than 3 inches deeps and found at 10-foot intervals.
- Gullies occurring more frequently than 200-foot intervals and that appear unstable (do not support perennial vegetation).
- Trench subsidence or slumping.
- Disturbance of plant root systems.
- Existence of wind-scoured depressions deeper than 0.50 inch over 25% of a 100-square-foot area.
- Flow patterns that show translocation of soil and surface litter.

Noxious Weed Control

Efforts to reduce the spread of noxious weeds would be made during the project construction and maintenance processes. The use of construction equipment and supplies during reclamation of the pipeline construction can potentially cause the spread of noxious weeds. The following guidelines would be followed during construction, reclamation, and maintenance stages of the project to control the spread of noxious weeds.

- Construction equipment, materials, and vehicles would be stored at construction sites or at specified construction yards.
- All personal vehicles, sanitary facilities, and staging areas would be confined to a limited number of specified locations to decrease chances of incidental disturbance and spread of weeds.
- Contractors would be required to ensure that vehicles arrive at the work site clean and weed free. All equipment, including personal vehicles, entering the ROW must be washed at a designated location and identified with a tag certifying that it is clean and weed-free.
- In areas with existing noxious weed infestations, vegetation, soils, and trench spoil material would be stockpiled adjacent to the removal point and, following construction, would be returned to their original locations to prevent their spread along the ROW.
- Following completion of work at identified noxious weed-infested sites, the contractor would be required to use compressed air or other means to remove soil and propagules from equipment and vehicles to prevent transport along the ROW.
- Prompt re-establishment of the desired vegetation in disturbed areas is required. Seeding would occur during the frost-free periods after construction. Certified “noxious weed-free” seed would be used on all areas to be seeded.

Furthermore, Enerplus has committed to control the spread of noxious weeds within the project area during the construction, reclamation, and maintenance phases of the project. BIA personnel would assist with the identification of noxious weeds during required line maintenance activities. The authorized officer would be contacted prior to any herbicide use. If a noxious weed community is found, it would be eradicated unless the community is too large, in which case it would be controlled or contained to prevent further growth. The services of a qualified weed control contractor would be utilized.

Final Abandonment

A termination and reclamation plan would be developed and submitted to the BIA at least one year prior to abandonment. This plan would include, but would not be limited to, removal of aboveground facilities, reclamation procedures for aboveground facility sites and access roads, and an abandonment and reclamation schedule.

All surface facilities would be removed upon abandonment. Compacted areas would be ripped and, following recontouring, stockpiled topsoil would be redistributed, prepared, and revegetated. Enerplus would be responsible for reclamation until it meets BIA requirements.

Availability of soil nutrients changes over time, so soils in long-term stockpiles would be analyzed to determine nutrient status and fertilizer application rates prior to redistribution.

Upon final abandonment of the pipeline location and/or access roads related to the Enerplus project, water diversion measures would be installed and both the access roads and pipeline locations would be restored to approximately the original ground contour(s).

Because the economic and environmental costs preclude excavation and removal of the pipeline, it would be purged and abandoned in place.

9. Applicable National Environmental Policy Act Document(s)

Environmental Assessment: Saddle Butte Pipeline, LLC, Saddle Butte Trunk Lines (September 2010).

Environmental Assessment: Peak North Dakota, LLC, Four Horizontal Bakken Exploratory Wells (April 2009).

Environmental Assessment: Peak North Dakota, LLC, Five Horizontal Bakken Exploratory Wells (October 2008).

Environmental Assessment: Peak North Dakota, LLC, Environmental Assessment for Drilling of Baker, Brugh-Bear, Danks, Eagle's Nest, and Fox Ridge Exploratory Oil and Gas Wells (January 2010).

10. Other Relevant Documentation

Addendum to Saddle Butte Pipeline, LLC, August 2010 Environmental Assessment for Approval of Saddle Butte Trunk Lines (October 2010).

Addendum to Environmental Assessment to Authorize Land Use for the East Lateral Pipeline Connecting to the Saddle Butte Pipeline (August 2011).

11. National Environmental Policy Act Adequacy Criteria

This document has identified six previously prepared NEPA documents which adequately describe the environmental consequences of the newly proposed action described herein, and meet the following NEPA Adequacy Criteria.

1. The proposed action is substantially the same action and at the site specifically analyzed in the existing NEPA documents.
2. The range of alternatives is reasonable with respect to the current proposed action in the existing NEPA documents, which appropriately consider and analyze current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values.
3. The existing analysis and conclusions are adequate in the existing NEPA documents. The analysis is still valid in light of new studies or resource assessment information.

4. The methodology and analytical approach used in the existing NEPA documents continues to be appropriate for the proposed action.
5. The direct and indirect impacts of the proposed action are unchanged from those identified in the existing NEPA documents.
6. The cumulative impacts that would result from implementation of the proposed action are unchanged from those analyzed in the existing NEPA documents.
7. A 30-day comment period involving public input and interagency review was used in the development of the existing NEPA documents.

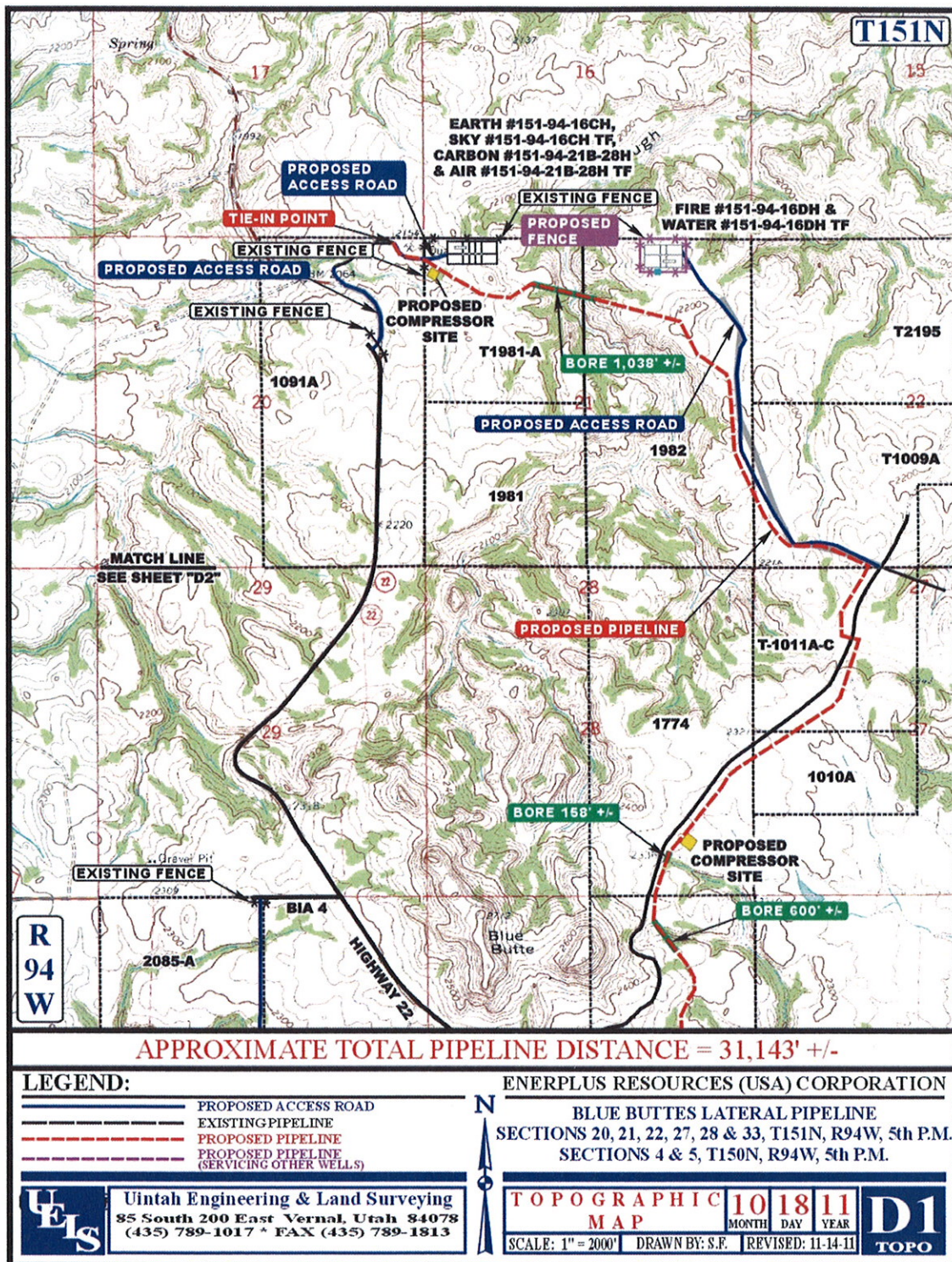


Figure 1. Proposed Blue Buttes Lateral Gathering Line System, page 1.

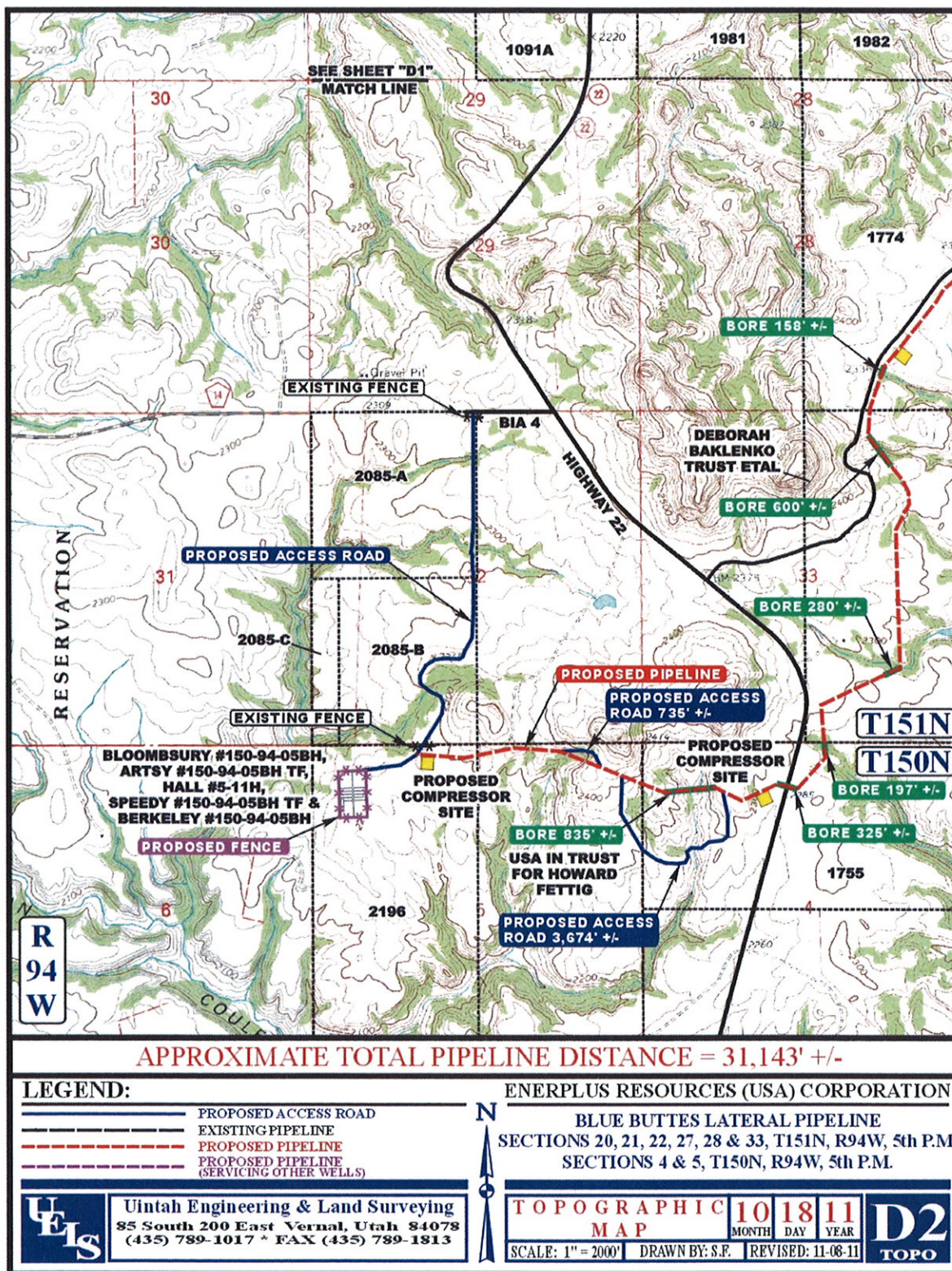


Figure 2. Proposed Blue Buttes Lateral Gathering Line System, page 2.

*Addendum to Environmental Assessment to Authorize Land Use for the Blue Buttes Lateral Pipeline
Connecting to the Saddle Butte Pipeline (January 2012)*



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Great Plains Regional Office
115 Fourth Avenue S.E., Suite 400
Aberdeen, South Dakota 57401



IN REPLY REFER TO:
DESCRM
MC-208

DEC 07 2011

Elgin Crows Breast, THPO
Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation
404 Frontage Road
New Town, North Dakota 58763

Dear Mr. Crows Breast:

We have considered the potential effects on cultural resources of a proposed oil pipeline in McKenzie County, North Dakota. Approximately 183.93 acres were intensively inventoried using a pedestrian methodology. Potential surface disturbances are not expected to exceed the areas depicted in the enclosed report. Three archaeological sites (32MZ1780, 32MZ1992, 32MZ1993) were revisited and one new site (32MZ2264) was recorded that may possess the quality of integrity and meet at least one of the criteria (36 CFR 60.4) for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. No properties were located that appear to qualify for protection under the American Indian Religious Freedom Act (42 USC 1996).

As the surface management agency, and as provided for in 36 CFR 800.5, we have reached a determination of **no historic properties affected** for this undertaking, as the project has been rerouted so as to avoid the archaeological sites, which will also be fenced out. Catalogued as **BIA Case Number AAO-1998/TB/11**, the proposed undertaking, location, and project dimensions are described in the following report:

Baer, Sara, Alan Hutchinson and Jenny Nagra
(2011) A Class I and Class III Cultural Resource Inventory of the Blue Buttes Lateral Pipeline, Fort Berthold Indian Reservation, McKenzie County, North Dakota. SWCA Environmental Consultants for Enerplus Resources, Denver.

If your office concurs with this determination, consultation will be completed under the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations. We will adhere to the Standard Conditions of Compliance.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Carson N. Murdy, Regional Archaeologist, at (605) 226-7656.

Sincerely,

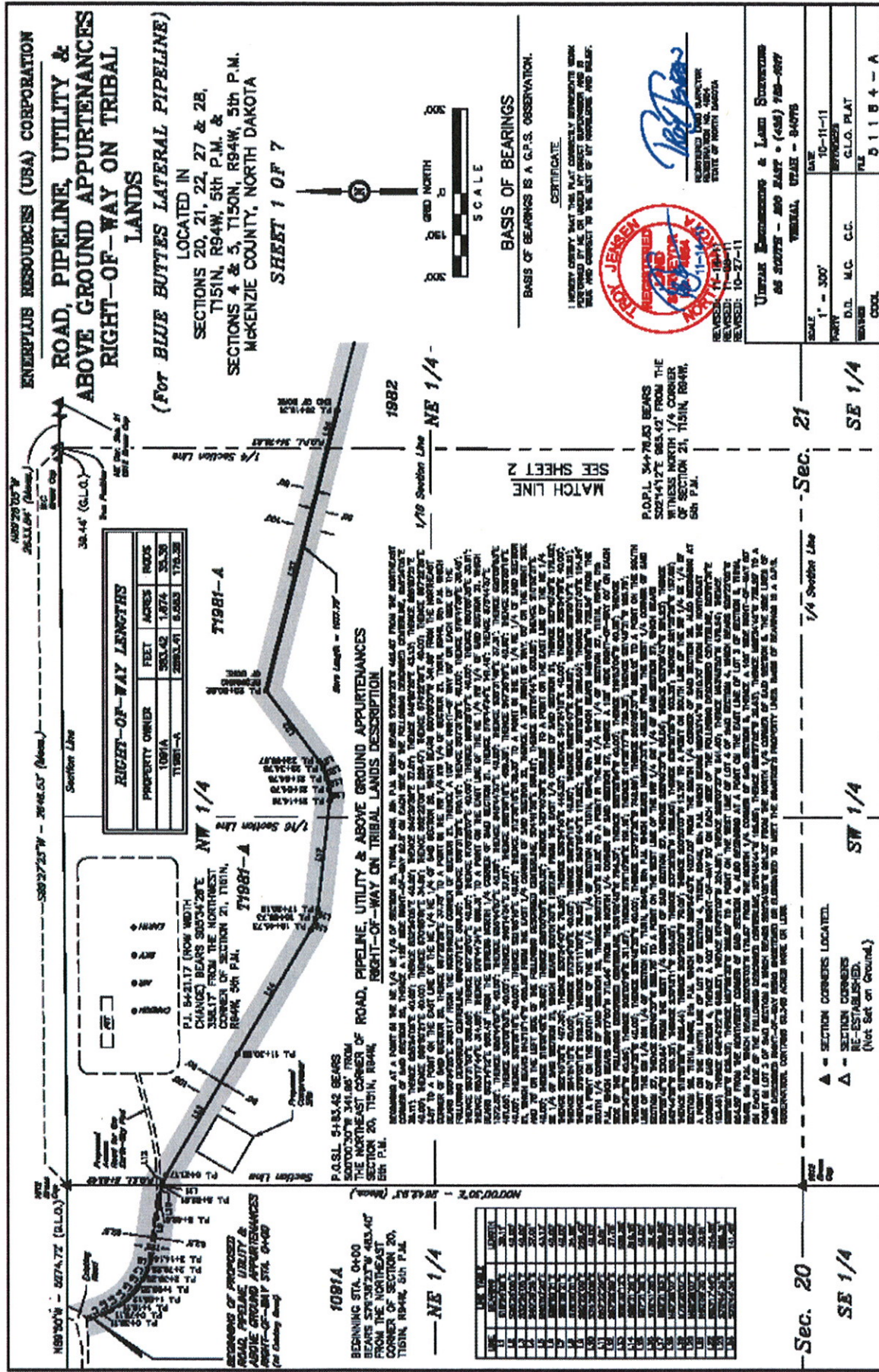
ACTING Regional Director

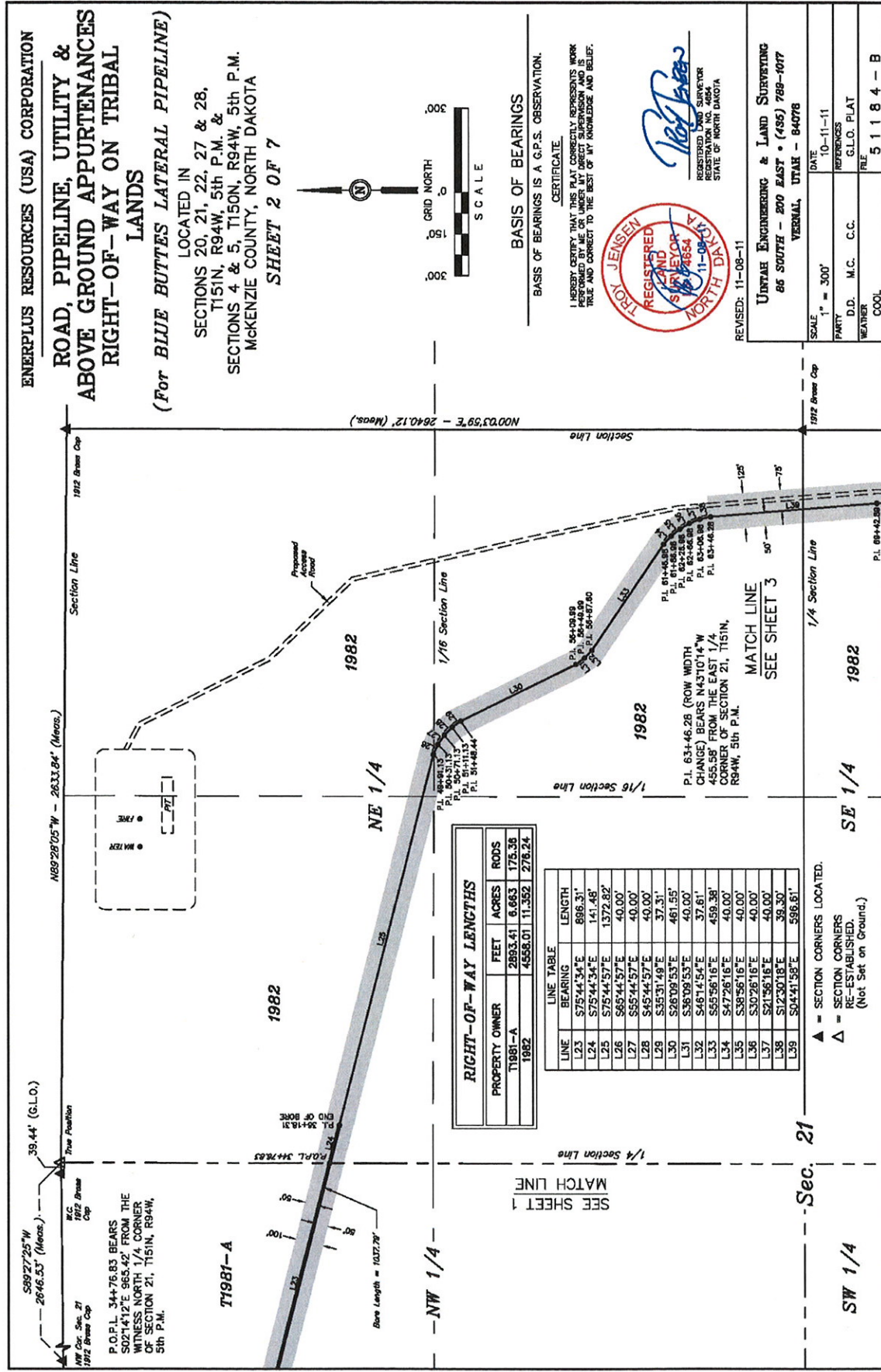
Enclosure

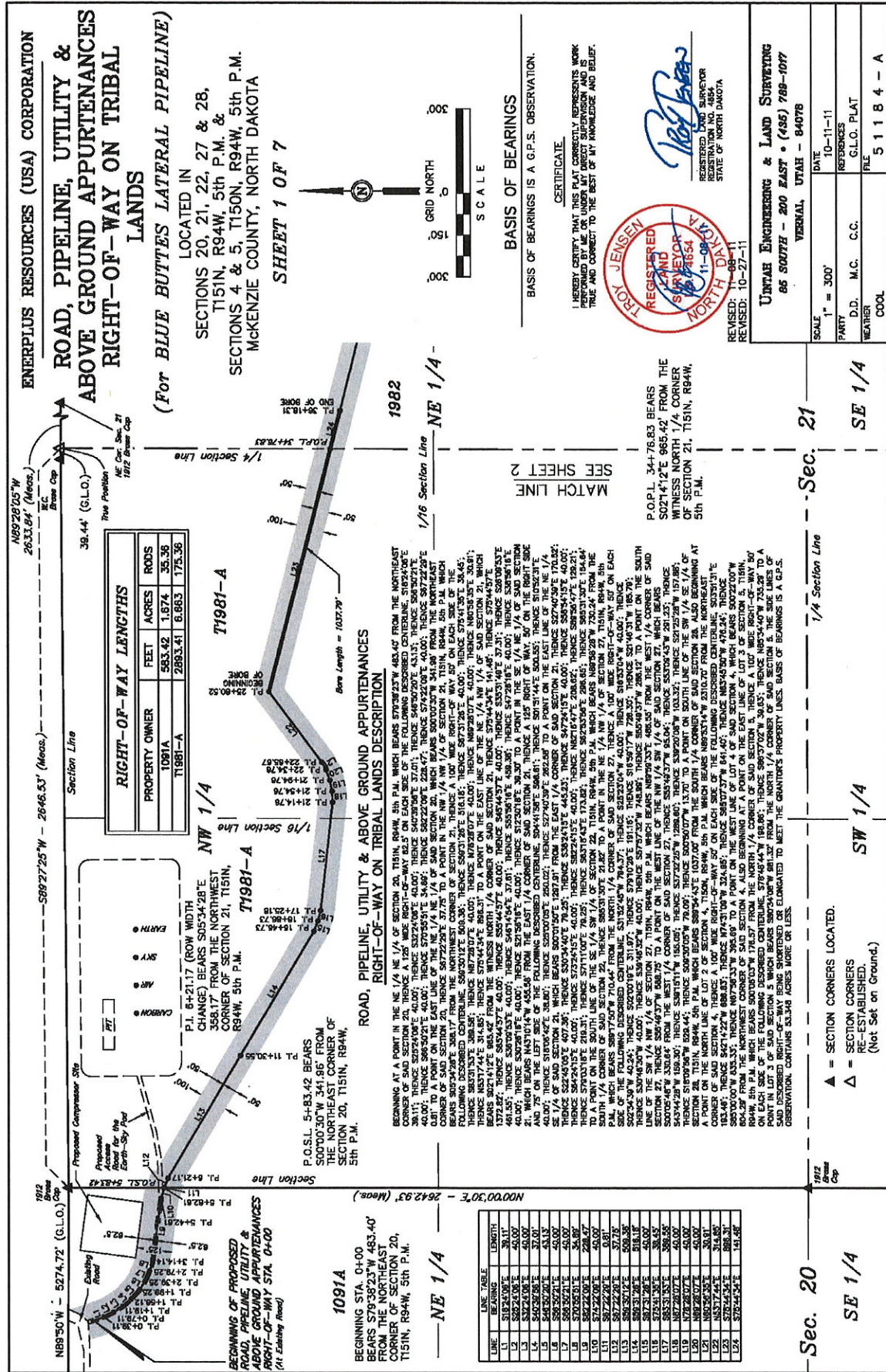
cc: Chairman, Three Affiliated Tribes
Superintendent, Fort Berthold Agency

APPENDIX A

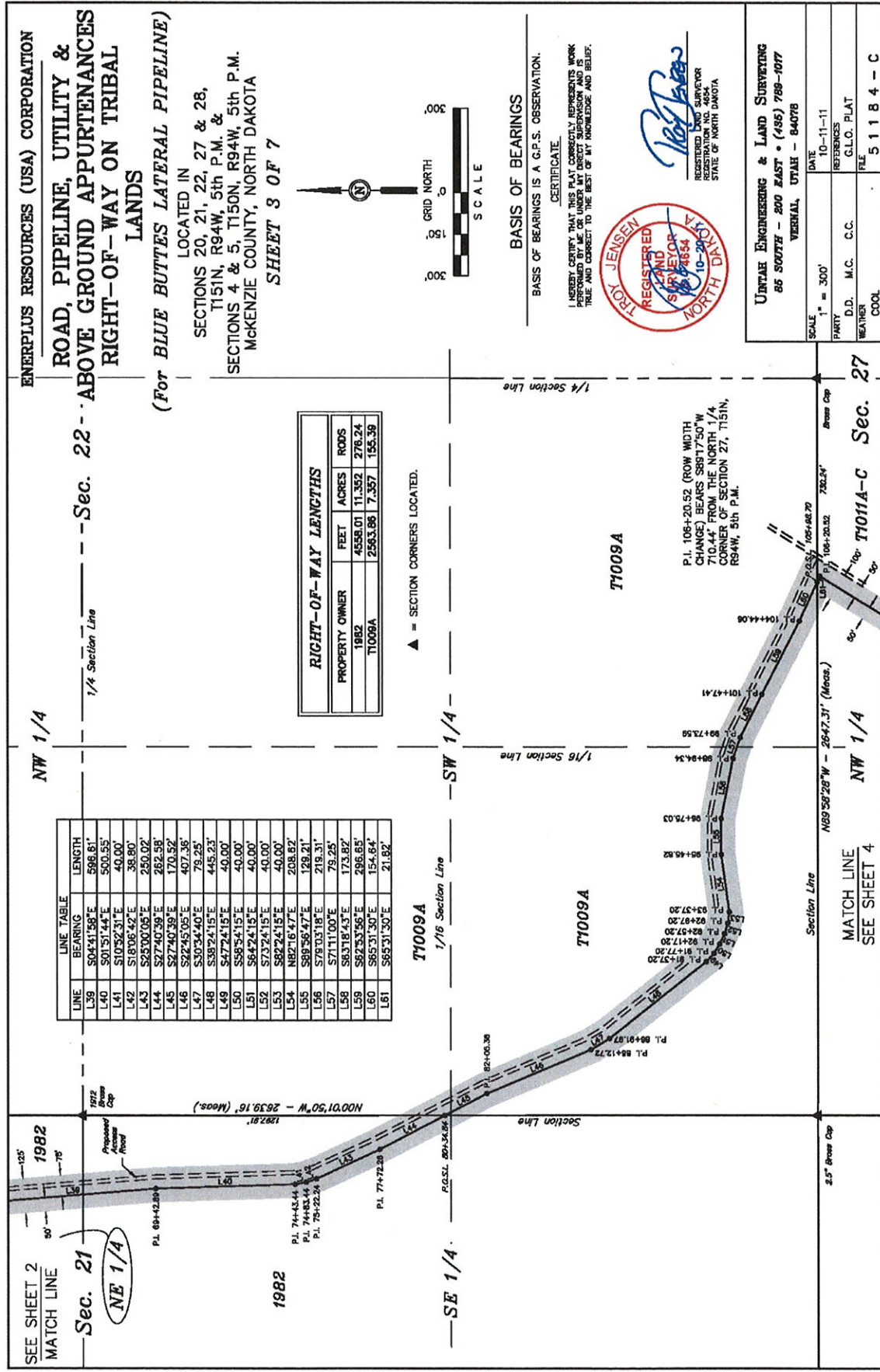
Pipeline Layout and Pipeline Right-of-Way for the Blue Buttes Lateral Gathering Pipeline System

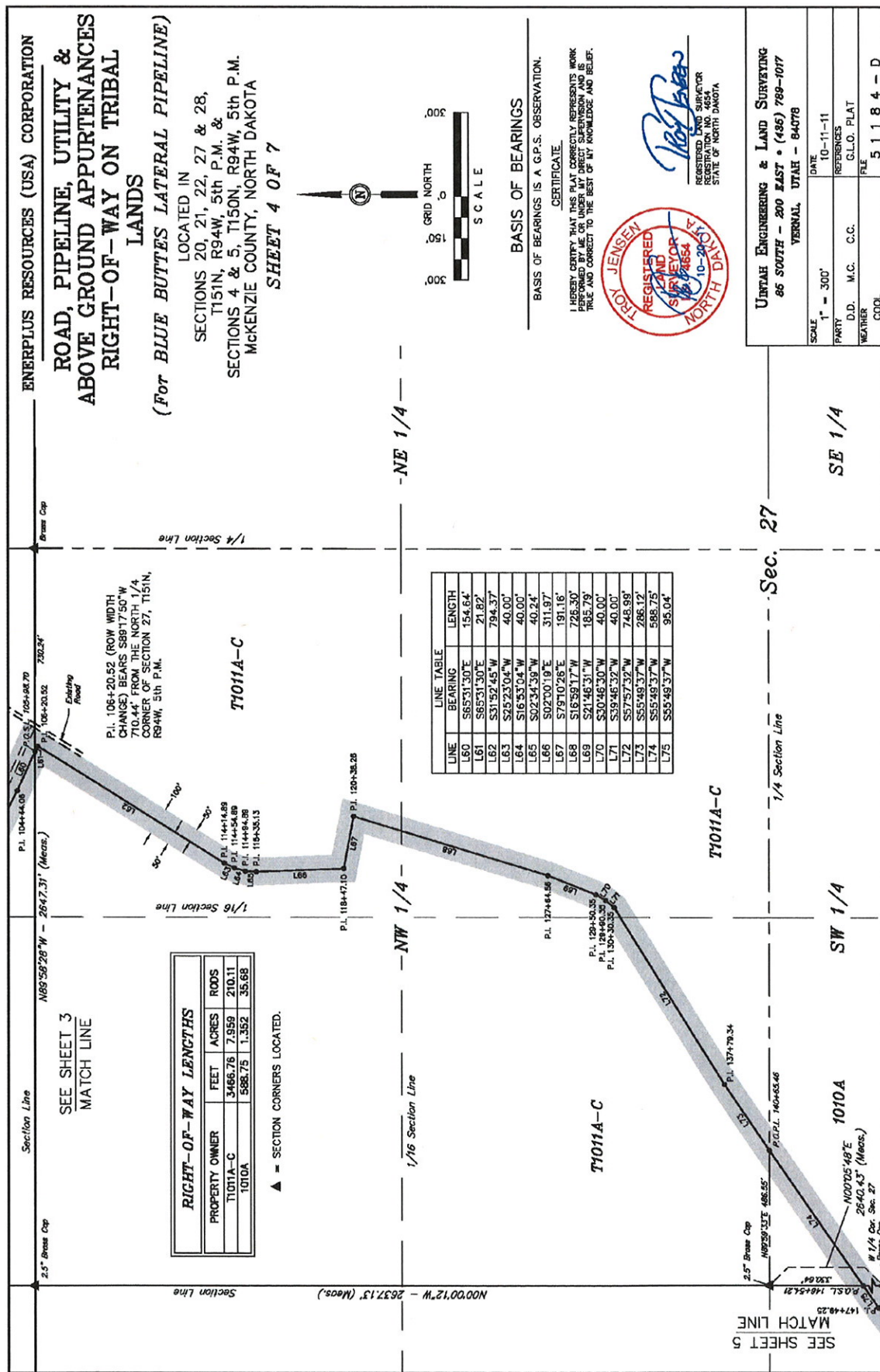


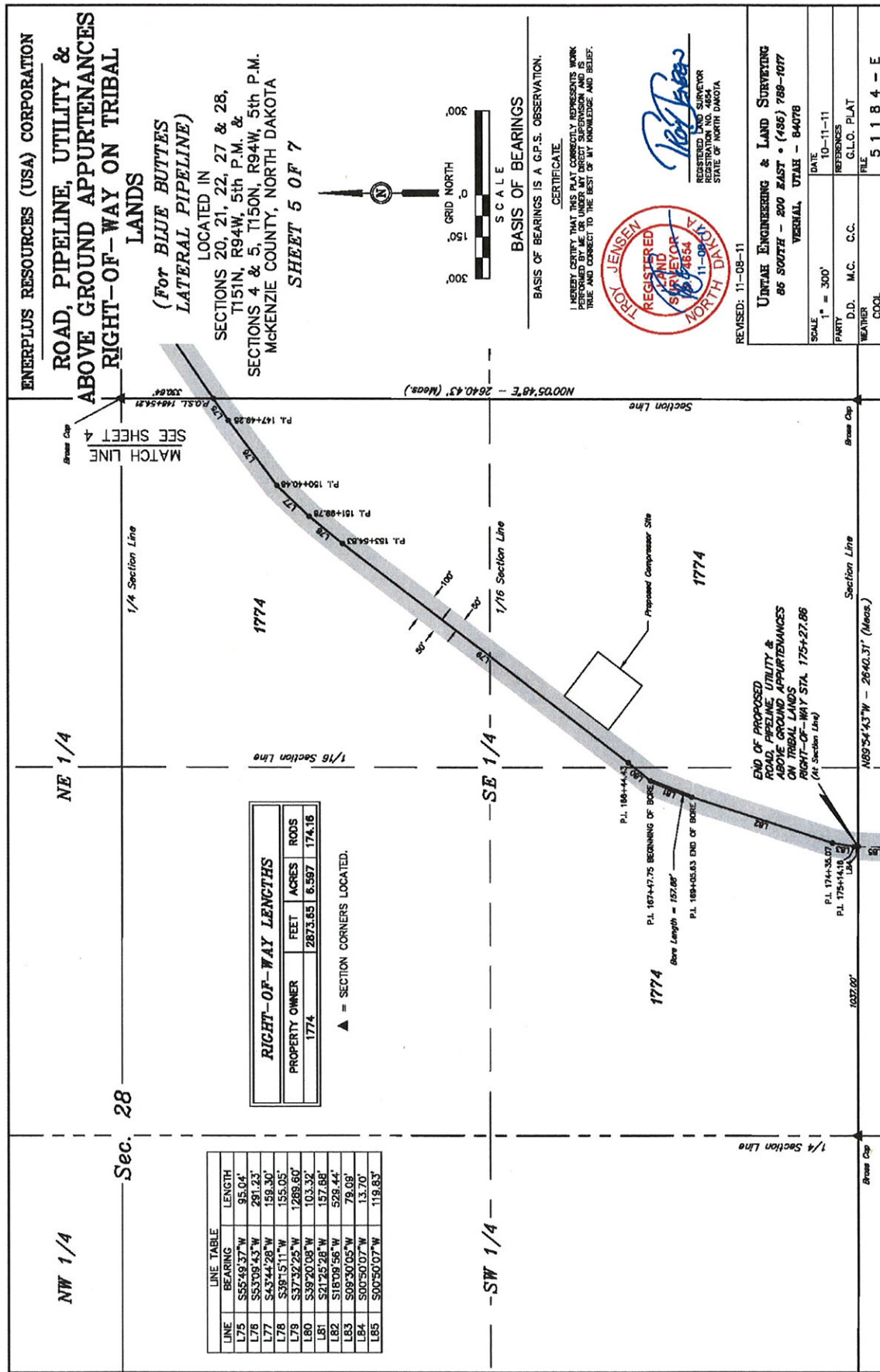




Addendum to Environmental Assessment to Authorize Land Use for the Blue Buttes Lateral Pipeline Connecting to the Saddle Butte Pipeline
 (January 2012)



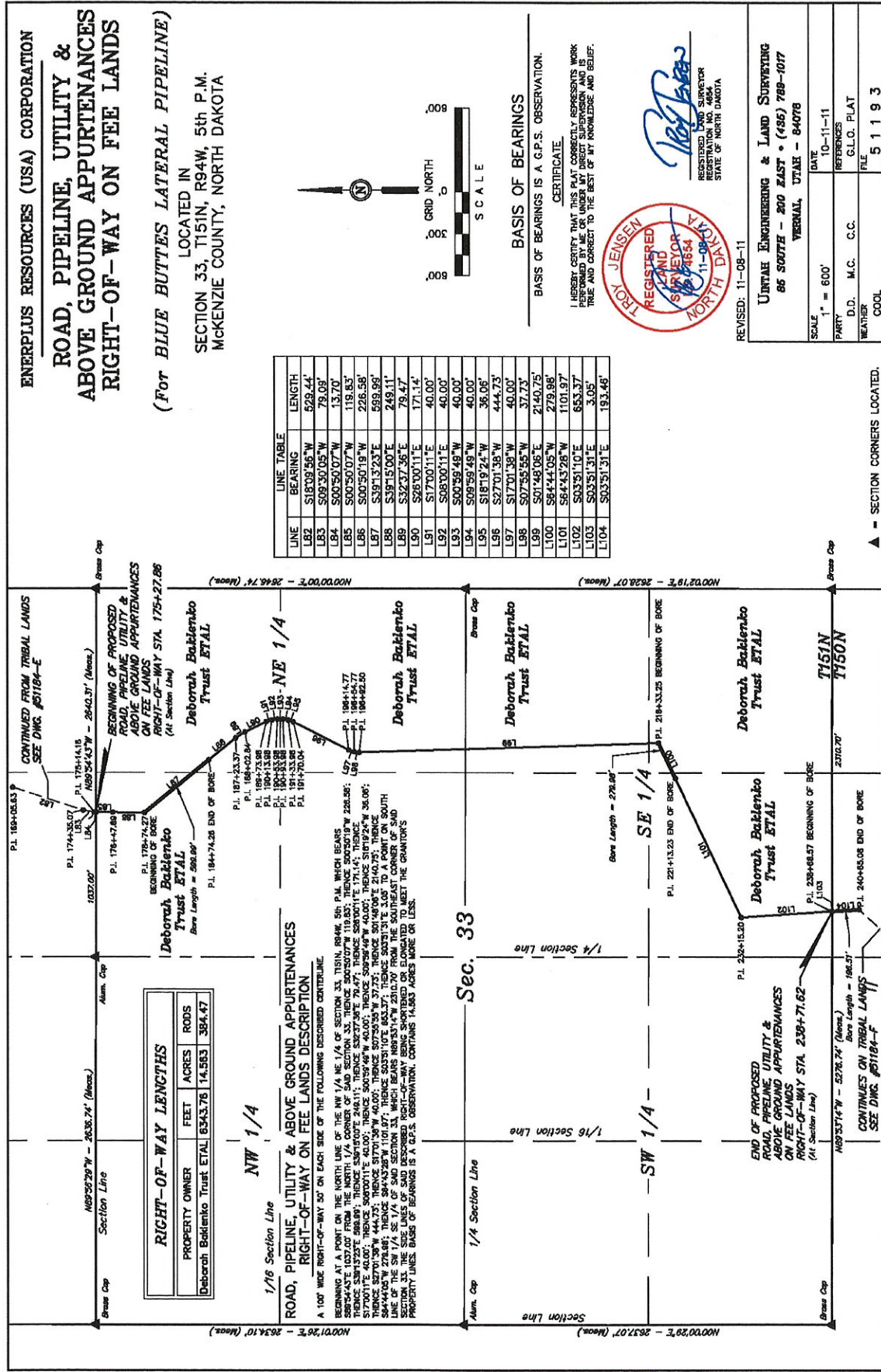






(January 2012)





(January 2012)



Notice of Availability and Appeal Rights

**Enerplus: Addendum to Environmental Assessment to Authorize Land Use for
the Blue Buttes Lateral Pipeline Connecting to the Saddle Butte Pipeline**

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is planning to issue administrative approvals related to an Addendum to Environmental Assessment to Authorize Land Use for the installation of the Blue Buttes Lateral Pipeline Connecting to the Saddle Butte Pipeline on the Fort Berthold Reservation as shown on the attached map. Construction by Enerplus Resources is expected to begin in 2012.

An environmental assessment (EA) determined that proposed activities will not cause significant impacts to the human environment. An environmental impact statement is not required. Contact Earl Silk, Superintendent at 701-627-4707 for more information and/or copies of the EA and the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

The FONSI is only a finding on environmental impacts – it is not a decision to proceed with an action and *cannot* be appealed. BIA's decision to proceed with administrative actions *can* be appealed until February 8, 2012, by contacting:

**United States Department of the Interior
Office of Hearings and Appeals
Interior Board of Indian Appeals
801 N. Quincy Street, Suite 300, Arlington, Va 22203.**

Procedural details are available from the BIA Fort Berthold Agency at 701-627-4707.

Project locations.

